

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONGRATULATING COURTNEY RAFES

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Rafe of Justin, TX, on her commitment, contribution and success in this year's Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix. Courtney is the youngest daughter of Richard and Tommy Rafe of Denton, TX. Dr. Richard Rafe is the senior vice president for administrative affairs for the University of North Texas. Tommy Rafe is a science teacher at Gene Pike Middle School in Justin, TX.

As part of a science project, Ms. Rafe devised a railroad warning system that uses ultrasonic sound to detect broken rails and to warn two trains before a collision. Working over a period of several weeks, Ms. Rafe collected data from eight experiments and more than 2,000 tests run on a model train track system constructed in her living room.

She was selected for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix after earning a top honor with her railway project at a regional competition at the University of North Texas in Denton. At the national competition, Ms. Rafe earned a \$20,000 scholarship from the Department of Homeland Security for her project and was offered an internship with an engineer for the department. Her project has been featured on the Today Show, CNN, ABC and the Discovery Channel.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Courtney Rafe for her research and for receiving this commendable award. Her commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

### THANKING CATHERINE (CATHY) BRICKMAN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

#### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on January 16, 2006, we rise to thank Ms. Cathy Brickman for 25 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Cathy has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cathy began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in November of 1980 as an applications analyst in the House Information Systems group. Cathy's potential and drive were recognized early in her career, resulting in her steady progression to positions of increasing responsibility. During the first 15 years of her career she developed

the requirements for the House's first Correspondence Management System and led the development of the House's first local area network. She was also detailed to the Speaker's Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern and Central Europe. On this detail she worked in country in the Parliaments of 11 Eastern, Central European and Baltic countries and Russia to implement information technology systems.

Her last 10 years were spent as team leader, Network Configuration Management for House Information Resources and she continued to be a key member of many important information technology projects in the House. During this time she supervised a team of 17 network communications specialists responsible for configuration and support of the House's large, enterprise data communications network consisting of 20,000 network devices. She was the Contracting Officer's representative for all of the House's Wide Area Network—Internet—communications services and in this capacity she authored multi-year, multi-million dollar contracts. Cathy also managed the expansion of the House's Flagship Frame Relay service and started the implementation of Gigabit Ethernet replacement for the legacy ATM campus data network.

Cathy's leadership while serving the United States House of Representatives has been superior. During the October 2001 anthrax incident, as House Members and staff were forced off-site, Cathy was a key contributor to the efforts to ensure alternate site data networks were rapidly set up. Her standard of excellence, dedication to passionate customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done earned Cathy the Distinguished Service Award, the Chief Administrative Officer's highest honor, in September 2003. Cathy is admired by the people she led and appreciated by those she served.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Cathy for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Cathy many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

### RECOGNITION OF THE SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN CYCLONES FOOTBALL TEAM

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men from central Illinois. The Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team from Springfield, IL, last week won the championship game of the Illinois High School Association Class 5A football playoffs, defeating Rock Island Alleman 28–21. The win was the first State championship in SHG's history. The Cyclones went 14–0 this season, and won the Central

State Eight conference championship, along with the State title.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach Ken Leonard and his coaching staff on this magnificent achievement. Most of all, I want to congratulate all the members of the 2005 Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team, who represented their school, their community and all of Central Illinois so well. I congratulate them on their achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

### HONORING THE PRIDE OF ACADIANA MARCHING BAND

#### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great achievement of the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the Seventh District of Louisiana.

The Pride of Acadiana Marching Band participated in the 79th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on November 24, 2005. One of only ten bands selected, the Acadiana Marching Band was the first Louisiana band to be invited to perform in the parade. The band followed the Big Apple Float, which featured the New Orleans' Krewe of Orpheus along with NYPD officers and FDNY rescue workers in a musical salute to New Orleans.

Playing several Cajun tunes, the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band excited the crowds with songs including "Big Chief," "Money-maker," and "Winter Wonderful." For the NBC exclusive area, the band performed a combination of "When the Saints Go Marching In," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," and "South Rampart Street Parade." "Sleigh Ride" was the holiday tune performed while exiting the NBC area.

In addition to their participation in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the ULL Marching Band performed on the USS *Intrepid*, an aircraft carrier museum.

Today I want to recognize and congratulate the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band and Director Brian Taylor from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, for their achievement and thank them for representing Louisiana at such an extraordinary event.

### CONGRATULATING DANIEL FUNDERBURK

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Daniel Funderburk of Ft. Worth, Texas for being selected as a finalist in

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